

Texas Health Trace Updates

for Local and Regional Users

This biweekly communication is intended to provide local and regional users of Texas Health Trace with useful information about recent and upcoming system enhancements and features.

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Major Accomplishments

1. Scripts updated for antigen and unknown workflows to align with new CDC guidelines.
2. Enhanced jurisdictional mapping, using GIS, to better align cases to counties.
3. Added the ability for CI/CTs to escalate cases or exposed contacts to jurisdictions for necessary follow up.
 - a. Case Deaths (Ex. For chart abstractions)
 - b. General Escalation of Cases (Ex: To provide isolation letters, instances of provider refusing to release patient information)
 - c. Epi Lead Escalated Cases (Ex: To notify of location exposures, instances of out-of-state cases, congregate settings)
4. Hotspot (morbidity threshold) notification:
 - a. Allows jurisdictions to graphically visualize potential hotspots across zip codes and;
 - b. View a queue of all cases within the potential hotspot zip code(s)
5. Investigation status – An indication that the case investigation is complete and ready to be sent to the CDC.
6. Creation of a travel workflow that allows the CI/CT to capture all relevant travel details including mode of transportation, locations traveled to, etc.
7. Enhancements made to location-based exposures to improve ease of capturing location-based information from case or exposed contact
8. Regional and local user specific training modules
9. Enhancements made to standard reports based on current user jurisdiction. Regional and local users must save the report to their appropriate folders to modify.
 - a. Manual shunting monitoring report (*Allows jurisdiction to monitor all cases they manually assigned to the call center*)
 - b. All lab tests not auto-shunted report (*Gives jurisdictions insight on which lab tests the jurisdiction is responsible for*)
 - c. All lab tests report (*Visibility of all lab tests associated with their jurisdiction*)

Latest Resources and Trainings

- User Guide for Texas Health Trace for Regional/Local Health Department Epidemiology Leads
- Job Aid: THT Changes 7/31/20 Release
- Job Aid: Data Dashboard for Regional and Local Health Departments
- Job Aid: Modifying User Details
- Job Aid: How to Access the HHSC Enterprise Portal
- Soft Skills Training: Strategies to Reduce Unconscious Bias (Part 1)
- Soft Skills Training: Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Customers

Texas Health Trace Updates

for Local and Regional Users

Lessons Learned

- Manually entered lab tests and cases should designate Source Type = Manually Entered
- Manually entered lab tests must be associated with a case
- Lab test type is now a required field
- Cases must be associated with a person's record to be populated with demographic information and called
- Data quality checks: guidance given to contact center to collect details on hospitalizations, deaths, travel, and location
- Auto-shunting ELR feed: a jurisdiction's threshold is based on total open cases not daily cases from ELR feed

Open Issues

- Working on process to bring in historical data
- On-demand Line List import: gaps between old and recent reports
- THT to NEDSS importation expected completion is 8/15
- IVR (Interactive Voice Response) inbounding expected completion is 8/5
- Awaiting approval for deployment of email encryption

Plans for Next Sprint Cycle

- Continue ongoing script updates
- Non-NEDSS COVID Reports: Line List uploading
- Continue IVR Inbounding
- Export THT data to NEDSS
- Continue the tracing of event data from NEDSS
- Continue agency data importation option for 1As
- Movement restriction notifications
- Begin development of Social Network Mapping to include case investigations, exposed contacts, and locations
- Further enhancement of escalation queues